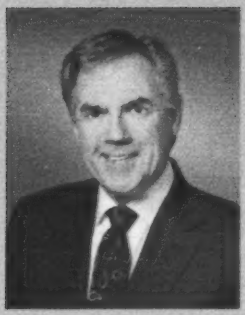
Building Strong Communities

First Nations Development Fund

Grant Program
Annual Results
2013/2014

Alberta
Government

Message from the Premier



On behalf of the Government of Alberta and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, I am pleased to present the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) 2013/2014 Annual Results.

Celebrating its ninth year, the FNDF continues to support First Nations' projects based on economic, social and community development needs. The FNDF provides a platform that allows the Government of Alberta and participant First Nations to work together, investing in families and communities.

FNDF projects are overseen and implemented by First Nation communities, and are able to reflect and address local needs.

In 2013/2014, the FNDF supported 317 community projects to benefit and support change in First Nations communities. I invite you to read the success stories highlighted in this report and I look forward to our continued partnerships.

Sincerely,

Premier Jim Prentice

Minister of Aboriginal Relations

contents

2 Introduction

4 Samson Cree Nation – Maskwacis Cree Language Application

6 Piikani Nation – The Peigan Board of Education

8 Accountability

10 Horse Lake First Nation – Childcare Centre

12 FNDF Fiscal Year Grant Funding

13 Grants by First Nation

14 Smith's Landing First Nation – Thebati Dene Suhne Cultural Retention Summer Student Program

16 Community Outreach

18 Duncan's First Nation – Community Administration Building

20 Blood Tribe First Nation – Emergency Response Fire Equipment

22 Allocation Formula for Grant Funding

23 How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

24 How to Apply for FNDF Grants

Building Strong Communities

Grant Program Annual Results 2013/2014

Introduction

The Government of Alberta and First Nations remain dedicated to a lasting partnership based on government-to-government participation. Both the First Nations Gaming Policy and the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) are confirmation of this strong combined process, having been affirmed and negotiated by First Nations leaders and the Government of Alberta.

In 2001, the First Nations Gaming Policy was approved of by First Nations and the Government of Alberta. It is a policy that was placed into practice to address needs in First Nations communities and to adhere with Alberta's unique gaming model. There are five First Nation owned casinos in operation today, employing hundreds of Albertans and making significant contributions to the economy. These casinos are:

- River Cree Resort and Casino at Enoch Cree Nation
- Grey Eagle Resort and Casino at Tsuu T'ina Nation
- Eagle River Casino at Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation
- Casino Dene at Cold Lake First Nation
- Stoney Nakoda Resort at Stoney Nakoda First Nation

The FNDF is part of the First Nations Gaming Policy, and is a Government of Alberta lottery grant program available exclusively to First Nations in Alberta. The FNDF is supported by 40% of all revenues generated by government-owned slot machines located in Host First Nation casinos in Alberta. The FNDF provides participant First Nations with consistent funds to support development initiatives based on community, social and economic initiatives. There are currently 46 First Nations participating in the FNDF Grant Program.

Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects

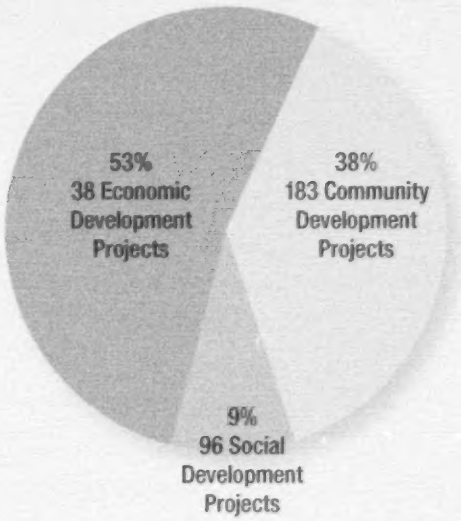
In 2013/2014, the FNDF paid over $121 million to First Nations to support 317 community-based projects. This contribution supported dynamic and vibrant initiatives designed by First Nations communities. The projects include:

- $63,679,075 paid towards 38 economic development projects
- $46,483,137 paid towards 183 community development projects
- $11,043,024 paid towards 96 social development projects

The FNDF has paid out over $731 million in grants to First Nations in Alberta, and has approved over 1650 projects, since it began. For a complete listing of projects funded by the FNDF go to the Who Benefits database at

- http://albertaonlyfund.ca/aboutthefall/whobenefits.aspx
- Under "Agency" select "First Nations Development Fund"

Total amount of $121 million supporting First Nations communities



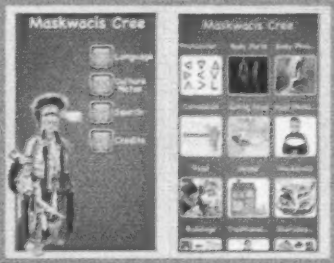
Samson Cree Nation
Maskwacis Cree Language Application

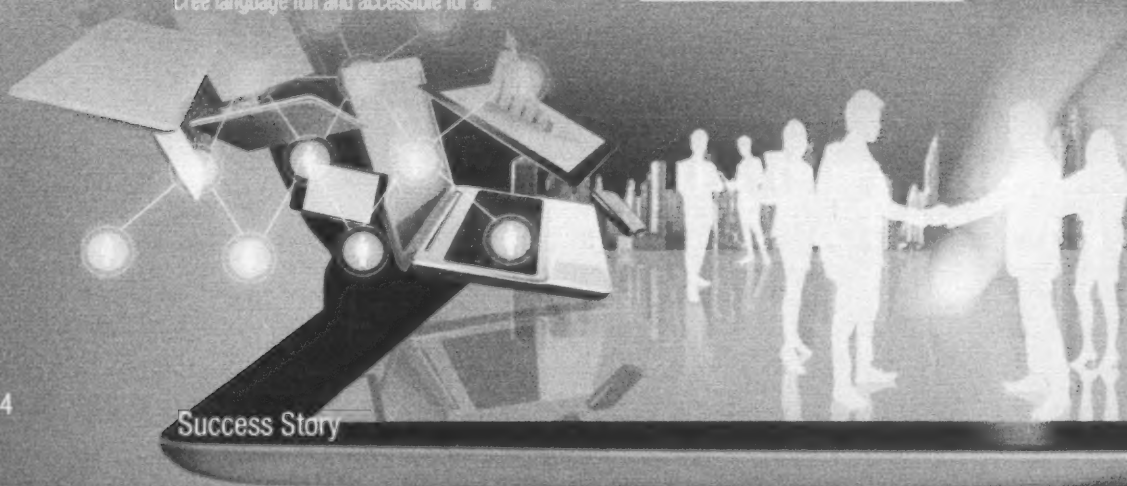
The Vision: To bring the usage of the Cree language back to younger generations

The Challenge: To put the Cree language into a form that appeals to younger people

What Worked: The creation of a Cree language software application to be used on iPhones and iPads

A group of six Cree language instructors from Samson Cree Nation have worked for the last two years to develop and make available the Maskwacis Cree Language Application. This software application (or "app" for short) is a "virtual grandmother" according to Bruce Cutknife, Cree language instructor and a founding member of the Language App team. The app is available through iTunes at the low cost of .99 cents with the Cree language presented at three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and expert. The language is also taught through games and songs, making the learning of the Cree language fun and accessible for all.



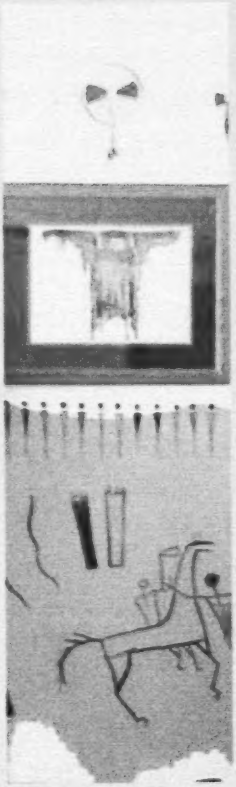


This is an app with an expanding future and is seen as a way to bring the language back into the lives of young people. Fourth-year Native Studies student, Grant Bruno, used the app over the past year to help with pronunciation of the Cree words he studied in his entry level Cree language course at the University of Alberta. Having the app available to him at any time boosted his learning experience in class and at home. FNDF resources were used throughout the project, including towards the purchase of 30 iPads to fill one classroom on Samson Cree Nation, allowing all students to access the program.

The importance of this technology for the younger generation is emphasized but would not have been available without teaching and input from Elders within the Samson Cree Nation community. It was with the approval and input of Elders that the app was able to move forward and reach out to all people. Bruce Cutknife says the team is grateful for not only the funding provided through the FNDF, but also the input of everyone within the community used in order to reach out to future generations. Currently a spell check and grammar check are being developed for the app, and plans to include additional Cree concepts of family relations, kinship with the living environment and information about constellations are underway. The team also hopes to make the app available to Android users in the near future. The app provides a way to practice the Cree language and to introduce younger generations to an excellent resource.

Back (left to right): Grant Bruno (Summer Student), Beverly Cree, Bruce Cutknife, Brian Lightning
Front: Ida Bull, Jerry Saddleback Sr., Betty Simon

Piikani Nation
The Peigan Board of Education



The Vision: To provide an accredited post-secondary preparatory transition year program, allowing Piikani First Nations students to enter into the program and main campus of their choice to further their post-secondary education.

The Challenge: To combine and deliver a transition year program on-reserve that is not only transferrable to post-secondary institutions but also provides support and guidance for a student cohort that greatly varies in life experience.

What worked: The Piikani Nation has successfully produced a transition year program that allows on-reserve students direct entry into post-secondary institutions.

The Peigan Board of Education is operated by the Piikani Nation and is responsible for primary and secondary education, as well as for the post-secondary education of Piikani's 3600 members. The Board received FNDF funding for a post-secondary transition year program which provides first-year college level courses to students. Students are then able to enter into a faculty of choice within the larger post-secondary system.

The program's coordinator, Joslin Smith, completed a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences before she returned to her community, and now runs the Transition Year/General Studies program.

Franklin Wolf Tail and Joslin Smith

The program supports student entry into post-secondary education and provides support to overcome challenges often experienced by First Nations students. It also equips and teaches students at an academic level, and provides courses that explore moving from a rural setting to an urban center. A Post-Secondary Education Committee member, Franklin Wolf Tail, believes in the empowerment and opportunity that education can create in the community. Piikani's Finance Administrator, Casey Provost, understands the financial and human resources required for delivering local post-secondary programming. He realizes the value that FNDF plays in this type of educational endeavor for Nation members.

Since September of 2014, the Piikani Nation has offered a four year Bachelor of Education degree in partnership with a fully accredited educational institute. The Peigan Board of Education also provides the second year of an Early Childhood Diploma program offered by Lethbridge College.

The main program offered is General Studies, which provides the first-year foundation for post-secondary education. According to Charity Many Guns, a student who attended the local program, the learning environment provided a comfort level that she would not have experienced going directly to campus away from the community. She plans on applying to the Social Work program at the University of Lethbridge and believes that "education is the key to a better life."

Accountability

Like many other grant programs, the FNDF Grant Agreement includes accountability measures:

- FNDF grants can only be used by First Nations for economic, social, and community development projects.
- FNDF grants cannot be used for operating or financing costs of a casino or other gaming facility/equipment, or for per capita distributions, or for security against loans or debt.
- Every grant application must include a Band Council Resolution.
- The use of FNDF grants must be reported annually by the First Nations.
- The Government of Alberta or the Auditor General of Alberta can conduct audits to confirm compliance with the FNDF Grant Agreement and First Nations Gaming Policy.
- The Government of Alberta can suspend the FNDF Grant Agreement and discontinue FNDF grants based on non-compliance.
- A process for dispute resolution is in place and the Minister of Aboriginal Relations retains authority for final decision-making.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations ensures transparency and accountability through audits of FNDF grants to confirm funds are used for approved projects and comply with the FNDF Agreement.

Compliance Audits

In 2013/14 FNDF completed compliance audits on 14 First Nations, this included a total of 123 projects, for the sum of $80,876,889. The audits reviewed the use of FNDF funds according to the terms of the FNDF Grant Agreement. Any concerns that arose were reconciled by the ministry and the First Nation. Auditors are available to assist and support First Nations on how to meet financial compliance obligations. Auditors also participate in the annual FNDF Workshop and other capacity building events.

Low administration costs

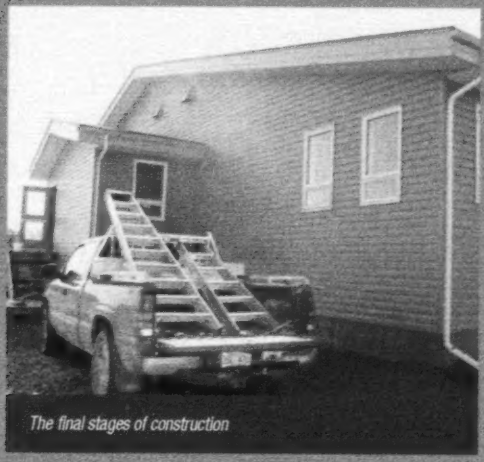
The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations pays the administration costs of the FNDF. In 2013/2014, administrative expenses were $1,475,692 representing approximately 1% of total FNDF funds. Administration costs include salaries, benefits, travel, and any specific supplies for FNDF program staff. The Government of Alberta absorbs other costs in the administration of the FNDF, such as daily office supplies, office space, utilities, computers, and information technology services, human resource and finance/accounting services, senior management and other administrative and executive duties and functions of government.

Horse Lake First Nation Childcare Centre

The Vision: To provide the community of Horse Lake First Nation with a childcare centre to replace the previous centre, which was destroyed in a fire two years ago

The Challenge: To provide the building and infrastructure needed to allow accessible childcare to local children from both on and off reserve

What Worked: Through the work of determined project managers, the innovative use of local labour and the support of the FNDF program and other funders, the Childcare Centre opened September 1, 2014



The final stages of construction

The Horse Lake First Nation Childcare Centre opened on September 1, 2014. Replacing the previous daycare, which was lost due to fire, this Childcare Centre will become a place where both Elders and children work and play together under one roof.

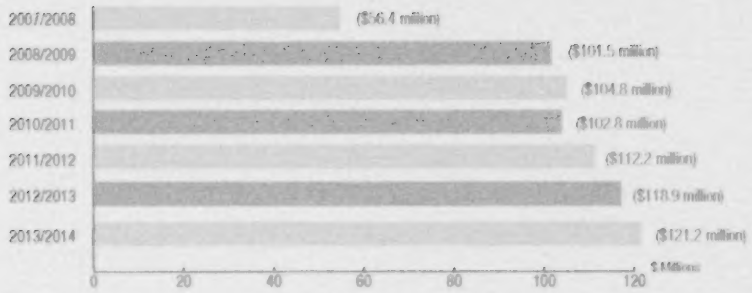
With an expectant enrolment of 20 children from the community and surrounding area, this centre will meet the community and

educational needs of youngsters at pre-school and kindergarten age. According to Frieda Wanyandie, Education Coordinator at the centre, "The daycare has room for three babies and the four to five-year-old group currently has 17 children registered." She describes the environment as, "A classroom setting with a Head Start program where parents and tots can enjoy a library and play area too." The lower floor has conference rooms and an Elders' room for meetings, arts and crafts, and socializing. "FNDF has provided us funding not only for cost-sharing the construction of the building but also the road development."

Local workers provided the skills and labour to make the project construction happen. The Childcare Centre will have its grand opening in summer 2015 and will be open for both the surrounding community and Nation members to come and see. Horse Lake First Nation is planning for the future by investing in this building which creates a space for children to learn, teach, play and grow.

FNDF Fiscal Year Grant Funding

Five First Nations casinos operate in Alberta, three by First Nations in Treaty 6 and two by First Nations in Treaty 7. As 75 per cent the FNDF funds are allocated back to the First Nations with casinos, more funding flows to Treaty 6 and 7 First Nations.



Treaty 6 – Signed in 1876 – covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan and includes 17 Alberta First Nations
Treaty 7 – Signed in 1877 – covers southern Alberta and includes 7 Alberta First Nations
Treaty 8 – Signed in 1899 – covers portions of northern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories and includes 24 Alberta First Nations

Grants By First Nation

First Nation	Funding 2013/2014	Projects Funded
Alexander First Nation	$679,169.61	8
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	$4,949,386.52	1
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	$537,083.75	3
Beaver First Nation	$525,595.68	15
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	$592,398.15	5
Bigstone Cree Nation	$1,468,201.65	9
Blood Tribe	$2,132,530.12	7
Chipewyan Prairie First Nation	$496,387.81	1
Cold Lake First Nations	$6,133,619.38	9
Dene Tha' First Nation	$808,709.74	4
Driftpile First Nation	$758,224.05	3
Duncan's First Nation	$415,856.42	1
Enoch Cree Nation #440	$46,700,453.53	24
Ermineskin Tribe	$1,019,722.87	13
Fort McKay First Nation	$491,887.05	5
Fort McMurray First Nation	$477,074.46	3
Frog Lake First Nation	$821,407.20	1
Heart Lake First Nation	$423,414.88	1
Horse Lake First Nation	$429,007.18	4
Kapawe'no First Nation	$423,007.18	5
Kehewin Cree Nation	$675,905.89	1
Little Red River Cree Nation	$1,122,962.73	15
Louis River First Nation	$458,936.83	7
Louis Bull Tribe	$689,750.25	12
Lubicon Lake Band	$215,980.79	5
Mikisew Cree First Nation	$194,629.11	4
Montana Cree Nation	$520,154.73	5
O'Chiese First Nation	$560,210.08	10
Paul First Nation	$675,844.21	5
Peerless Trout First Nation	$449,439.61	8
Pikani Nation	$919,658.08	13
Saddle Lake First Nation	$1,442,807.46	3
Samson Cree Nation	$1,561,639.81	15
Sawridge First Nation	$444,727.63	2
Siksika Nation	$1,415,146.33	3
Smith's Landing First Nation	$425,228.49	10
Stoney Nakoda Nation	$1,259,281.21	1
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	$829,115.34	11
Sucker Creek First Nation	$779,280.25	12
Sunchild First Nation	$568,826.21	7
Swan River First Nation	$561,268.40	6
Tallcree First Nation	$561,420.07	7
Tsuu T'ina Nation	$29,861,187.06	34
Whitefish (Goodfish) First Nation	$792,990.12	10
Whitefish Lake First Nation	$750,062.00	4
Woodland Cree First Nation	$532,700.52	7

**All FNDF grant expenditures are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.*

Smith's Landing First Nation Thebati Dene Suhne Cultural Retention Summer Student Program

The Vision To pass on Indigenous traditional knowledge and ways of being to the First Nation youth of Smith's Landing

The Challenge: To involve community members, Elders and resources outside of the community to teach youth traditional practices and Thebati Dene Suhne history

What worked: The youth who participated in this program heard their histories as told through the oral tradition of Elders joined in traditional land-based activities, and were also taught by outside teaching resources

Band Manager at Smith's Landing First Nation, Lorraine MacDonald, believes in the importance of cultural retention and passing on traditional stories and methods of living to future generations. With the support and collaborative efforts of Chief Andrew Wanderingspirit, Smith's Landing Councillors and Elders, a summer student cultural program was developed.

In July 2014, six students between the ages of 14 to 21, along with youth program leader, Brittany Tourangeau, were told Thebati Dene Suhne history as they hiked to various points of interest with Elder Francois Paslette. Elder Annie Burke sat with the students inside a teepee and recounted the history of Fort Fitzgerald. While on the land, youth were taught the traditional medicinal use of the local plants, and Elders Archie Smith and Maglone Paslette taught the students how to make caribou dry meat and make old traditional rabbit snares. Parks Canada guides took the students on a tour of Salt Plains and taught them about contaminated soil and water collection. The students were also taught bear and water safety at Mountain Portage Rapids and Pine Lake as they kayaked, canoed, swam and camped in the areas. A three-day course covering personal, team and community leadership was hosted and taught with the University of Calgary Native Center.

Front Row: Brittany Tourangeau, Sky MacDonald, Lorraine MacDonald, Justin LaBell, Anthony Vermillion, Kaitlin Norn and Elder Magloire Paulette
Back Row: Riley Hess, Anson Cheezie, Kiana Hessdorfer

In keeping with the intent of the cultural retention program, MacDonald explains, "We had many meetings and we all contributed ideas, along with our Elders input and the youth. As a community, we pass all cultural activities by the Elders to get their input, which is why the program is becoming so successful. Our Elders and youth are the ones who are going to move this forward."

The program contributed a small stipend to each participant to be used for clothes and school supplies in the coming school year. Youth participants referred to their time within the program as a job, as they were expected to arrive at 9:00 a.m. and were expected to work hard and do their best.

MacDonald sees the program as a way to learn and a way to teach. "With Elders present, youth learn about respect for Elders and everything around them. They learn about humility, sharing, helping each other and passing on teachings. These are extremely important aspects of the Thebati Dene Suhne way of living."

Community Outreach and the FNDF Annual Workshop

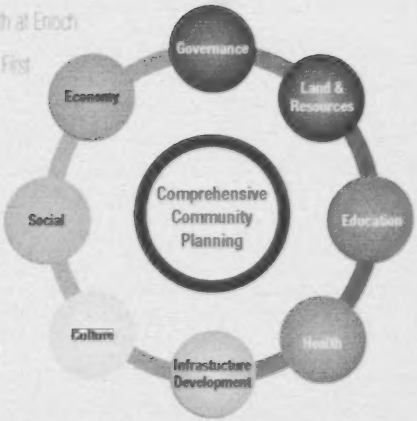
FNDF Liaison Officers meet regularly with First Nations to provide information, advice, and assistance in planning for the use of the FNDF Grant Program, and work together with communities to strengthen and realize their visions. The Liaison Officers assist First Nations in the areas of:

- Using FNDF within the terms of the Grant Agreement
- Identifying community priorities
- Completing funding applications
- Reporting, auditing, and fulfilling other requirements of the First Nation
- Community planning/development

Since 2009, Aboriginal Relations has hosted an annual community development workshop to provide further information on the technical, administrative, and delivery areas of the FNDF program, as well as how the FNDF can support wide-ranging community goals. The objective of the workshop is to support and strengthen community advancement for First Nations involved with the FNDF. The workshop is also an opportunity for numerous stakeholders to gather, build relationships and engage in discussion.

The 2013/2014 community development workshop was held October 10-11th at Enoch Cree Nation, at the River Cree Resort & Casino, with 90 people attending from First Nations and the Government of Alberta.

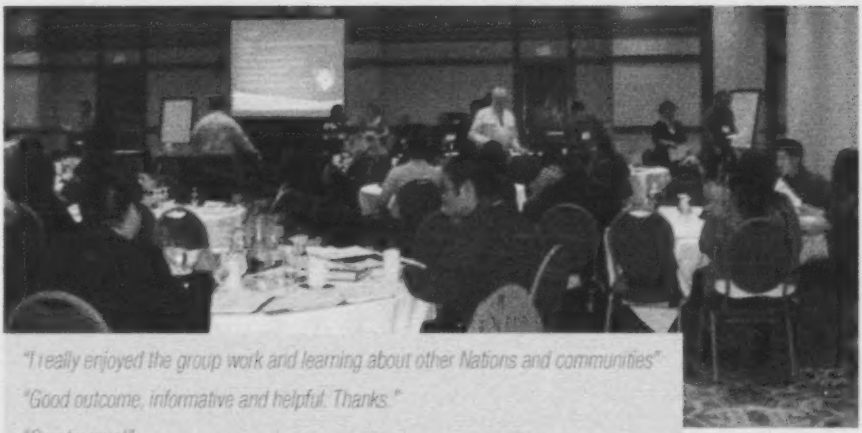
Day one of the workshop focused on comprehensive community planning. The benefits and challenges involved in the community planning process were discussed and groups worked together to examine and evaluate case studies. Carlon Big Snake from Siksika First Nation spoke about how community planning benefited his community. The community planning wheel was brought



forward as a way to look at community development issues, and the group discussed how the FNDF can help support social, economic and community development projects.

Overall, the workshop allowed First Nations and Government of Alberta staff to share information and stories. Success stories and projects from First Nations across the province showed what is possible when FNDF support is combined with community planning and consideration.

Carlon Big Snake



"I really enjoyed the group work and learning about other Nations and communities"
"Good outcome, informative and helpful. Thanks."
"Great venue!"

Duncan's First Nation
Community Administration Building

The Vision: To create an administration building that would house all service areas of Duncan's First Nation's business and community needs

The Challenge: To make this dream a reality the Nation engaged in a decade of planning

What worked: Persistence and patience was necessary to create a building that now accommodates the departmental needs of the Nation, a museum, a kitchen and a meeting room for community events

Left to right: Clifford Testawich, Andreanne Lawrence, Joanna Gladue, Cheryl Frank, Tom Green

Located 52 km southwest of Peace River, Alberta, Duncan's First Nation is a strong community with big plans for the future. Duncan's 268 band members, especially the 130 members that call the community home, visitors, friends and partners can now find many facilities under one roof in a newly constructed administration building.

Tom Green is the Lands Manager and a band member of Duncan's First Nation. He had the vision of a structure where not only band business would be carried out but also where all community members and visitors could come together and meet. After ten years of the community working hard, dedicating time and energy and creating new partnerships, the administration building now stands to welcome visitors and serve members.

Prior to the construction of the new administration building the Duncan's First Nation community had several older structures on the north side of the road. After thoughtful planning, the building was created in a little over a year, with the

result being a striking structure in both design and colour. According to Tom Green, "We needed a nice place for our people to come home to."

The building presently houses band administration employees' offices, accommodating the RCMP office, economic and land development staff as well as health services professionals. The building is in the process of having traditional artwork selected for the foyer and other interior walls. Once the interior furnishings are complete it will house a museum, a gathering area with a full kitchen, and a meeting boardroom on the second floor along with a spacious gathering area and balcony. The surrounding space continues to take shape and in the future may include a large teePee placed into the courtyard area at the back of the building.

It is exciting to see Duncan's First Nation continue to envision, plan and develop community building projects through hard work and dedication.

Blood Tribe First Nation
Emergency Response Fire Equipment

The Vision: To equip Blood Tribe Emergency Services firefighters with the necessary equipment and gear required to do the job safely and skillfully.

The Challenge: After the purchase of a new fire truck, the Blood Tribe wanted to find a funder for the purchase of much needed equipment.

What Worked: Financial support was accessed to fulfill the additional equipment needs of the fire department.

Francesco Palmarin, Oscar Cotton and Michael May

The Blood Tribe Fire Department provides emergency services to a population of over 11,000 on a land base of 1362.65 square kilometers. The Blood Tribe was able to purchase additional equipment for the fire station as well as outfit Blood Tribe firefighters by utilizing the FNDF program.

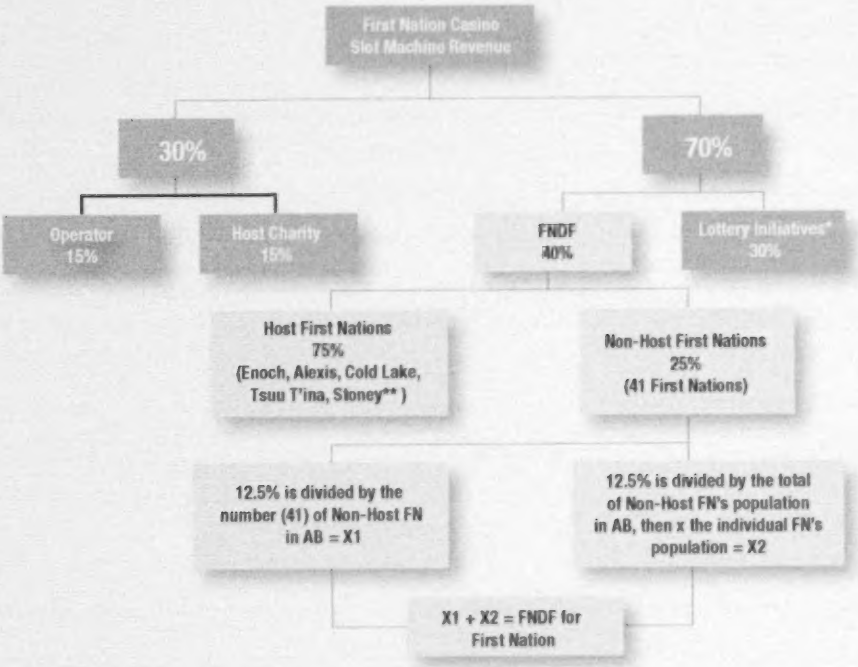
Oscar Cotton, the Director of Emergency Services, notes that there are currently 30 first responders working for the department: 19 are full-time, one part-time and ten casual members fill the staff list. Cotton explains that the fire department is an important part of the community and casual employees are often called in to address

Fire Hall in Standoff, Alberta

community needs. Training for the fire portion of the First Responder course occurs on Blood Tribe lands and the Emergency Medical Services portion of the training is offered outside of the community.

Cotton became aware of FNDF and began the application process that has greatly benefitted the department. Upon securing of a new fire truck, the emergency department found it also necessary to purchase fire resistant jackets, pants, helmets, coveralls, and the gloves that each fire fighter requires. Additional fire hoses and a new "ready rack" were needed as well. The fire department continues to serve the community and works hard to be ready for the next call

Allocation Formula for Grant Funding


First Nation Casino Slot Machine Revenue
30%
70%
Operator 15%
Host Charity 15%
FNDF 40%
Lottery Initiatives* 30%
Host First Nations 75% (Enoch, Alexis, Cold Lake, Tsuu T'ina, Stoney**)
Non-Host First Nations 25% (41 First Nations)
12.5% is divided by the number (41) of Non-Host FN in AB = X1
12.5% is divided by the total of Non-Host FN's population in AB, then x the individual FN's population = X2
X1 + X2 = FNDF for First Nation

* *Alberta Lottery Fund supports a variety of Alberta programs and services in communities throughout Alberta. These include the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Community Initiatives Program.*

** *The three Stoney tribes – Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley – are considered one Host First Nation*

How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

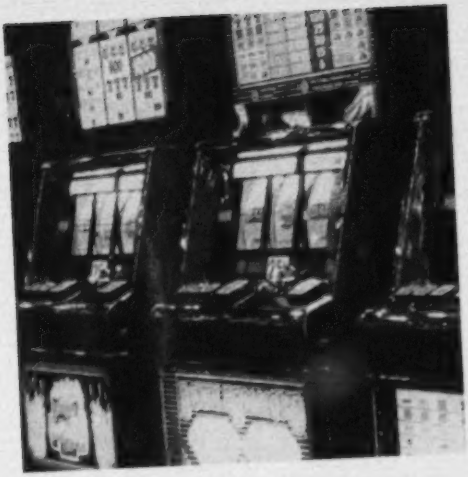
How revenue is shared – funding formulas

There are currently 46 First Nations sharing in the FNDF grant program. To receive funding First Nations sign the FNDF Grant Agreement. The agreement includes formulas explaining how the FNDF funding is split among all Alberta First Nations and covers the administration costs of the program.

- The FNDF receives 40 percent of the net revenue from government-owned slot machines in First Nations casinos in Alberta.
- Of this 40 percent, 75 percent is available to the five host First Nations who have casinos, and 25 percent is shared among the other First Nations in the province.
- Of the 25 percent going to First Nations without casinos, half is divided equally amongst 41 First Nations; and the other half is divided based on First Nation population totals.

Quarterly payments

The Alberta government does not have the FNDF funds at the start of the fiscal year. The funds become available as government receives them from the casinos. After the slot machine revenues have been verified with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, funds are then available to the FNDF for delivery to the First Nations. Payments are made quarterly, in July, October, January and April of each year. These payments are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement and reduce administrative costs.



How to Apply for FNDF Grants

Recognized Alberta First Nation Band Councils are eligible to apply to the FNDF Grant Program. The criteria for taking part in the fund were determined in consultation with First Nations in the province.

Grant applications must include:

1. Completed and signed application
2. Detailed project description
3. Detailed project funding/budget information
4. Band Council Resolution

To get a copy of the application and FNDF Grant Agreement, or for further assistance, contact:

Aboriginal Relations
20th Floor Commerce Place
10155 – 102 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8
Phone: 780-427-8407
Fax: 780-427-4019

To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

The FNDF Grant Program application form is also available online:

- Visit www.aboriginal.alberta.ca
- Click on First Nations Relations
- Click on First Nations Development Fund Grant Program.

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